

DRIFT OF REPUBLICAN TALK.

WHO SHALL TAKE MR. BLAINE'S PLACE AS
LEADER?

MR. DEFEW ON THE PRESENT SITUATION—NO
PARALLEL SINCE LINCOLN'S TIME—THE
NOMINATION PRACTICALLY
AN ELECTION.

Many railroad officials were pouring forth their wisdom and experience to Chauncey M. Defew yesterday at his office in the Grand Central Station when a Tribune reporter interrupted them.

discussion to ask Mr. Depew's opinion on Mr. Blaine's last letter and its effect upon the Re-

even, he said in reply to the question propounded:—

Mr. Blaine's letter to Mr. Reid from Paris is timely and important. It relieves a situation that had become decidedly strained. It brings things down to first principles. Previous to the publication of Mr. Blaine's first letter there was practically no other candidate for consideration of himself. He had a majority of the Convention easily, and very easily.

But after the announcement of his withdrawal the friends of other candidates immediately set to work. The "favorite sons" of the various States were marshalled out. All of these developed strength, but in the opinion of Mr. Blaine's friends none of them showed as much power in the country at large as Mr. Blaine. This was true in any of the States.

MR. BLAINE HAD AN EQUITABLE CASE TO PRESENT.

In consequence of this fact or belief, Mr. Blaine's friends concluded that if the Convention should nominate him unanimously he could be induced to accept despite his withdrawal. On this supposition they set to work and again succeeded in obtaining the votes of a majority of the delegates.

To the friends of the other candidates who believed that Mr. Blaine was really out of the field this naturally proved somewhat trying and the elements of uncertainty about the whole matter tended to increase this feeling. This unpleasant situation Mr. Blaine has most happily relieved by his second letter which leaves no doubt about his absolute and final withdrawal. As he himself says, it was not written

The field now, in Mr. Depew's opinion, is entirely open. Party sentiment has not sufficiently crystallized in favor of any other candidate to make Mr. Blaine's absolute withdrawal particularly affect the canvass of any one of the men prominently before the country. He added:

our party more free from any personal bias. The question of paramount importance with all, is to secure the most available candidate. There is to State pride to gratify, no personal rewards to bestow, or individuals to glorify or decorate this year. We are simply after the best man.

TO SELECT THE STRONGEST MAN.

With the South still in the grasp of the Democracy the margin is too close, he said, to take anyone but the strongest man. Who that was he did not believe could be told until the Convention had

There has been nothing like it since 1860, when Lincoln was nominated and loyally supported by Seward's friends, though these went to the Convention to nominate the illustrious New-Yorker. Mr. Lincoln had been in Congress for years. He had not been identified with any of the questions that had divided the nation. But to his friends he was

It seemed to be a matter of deep and earnest regret with all his friends and loyal Republicans that a Blaine man should deem it necessary to write this letter, as it was a matter of regret that he should have felt called upon to write it. It was a matter of regret that he should have been so ready to renounce him by acclamation. The

Republican party ought to nominate existed in the fact that every Democratic and Mugwump paper in the country opposed his nomination, demanded his withdrawal as a candidate and continually denounced him. But the Republican party has demanded that he be withdrawn in a second letter, the malice of "The New-York Times" follows the party, because it still honors its leader, and calls for Republican defeat because the party is loyal to Mr. Blaine yet. With genuine Republicans it could not be necessary to know what "Larry" Cowdin, "Hod" White and George Rogers want or order. They could do it on the spot. Whatever they want may be set down at once as not for the best interests of the Republican party.

common nicknames because that is their usual manner of addressing decent Republicans, and I presume it is the manner in which they themselves desire to be addressed.

Of the support of their support of a measure or a candidate, I may say that their advocacy of Judge Gresham which weighs him down more than any other one thing, and causes the entire party to look on him with suspicion, since it is a notorious fact that they are already committed, by vote and tongue, to the support of the Democratic candidate, Mr. Cleveland, whoever may be nominated by us. They approve and support him in spite of all his broken pledges. Judge Gresham, who is a man of honor, a man, has probably become aware long ere this that he is being caught in the position of Poor Dog Tray.

delation should do. My advice to the delegates is to go slow about committing themselves to any candidate, and to be especially careful in such matters as the booms that are being pushed by interested friends of the various aspirants. The issues of the convention are a momentous one, and should be handled with a rush. The whole future of the Republic is at stake. The action on its action. Its disbandment even may result from mistaken action. As long as the party assembles, the delegates should be careful to make the choice, there was no danger in going ahead, but at present it is wise to wait and see what the result will be. I am sure the people of Mr. Blaine's second letter. Then we should be able to Chicago prepared for free and frank and open consultation with the friends of the party from every section. When the wisdom of the party is made clear together and concluded what should be done, then will be time enough for delegates to act their part. The party is not a party, but a party representing what the party wants can most surely carry it to victory.

ALLISON'S STRENGTH IN THE WEST.
MR. CLARKSON SUGGESTS SOME REASONS WHY
IOWA'S "FAVORITE" CAN COMMAND REVERENCE

J. S. Clarkson, the Iowa member of the National Committee, and a member of the National Convention this year, was asked yesterday his opinion as to the drift of party choice and the course of party interest now. He said that he thought party choice would turn to the man strongest in ability and the best equipped in public training, and that party interest would follow the maximum of personal and party strength, and the minimum of personal and factional weakness, adding:

Party judgment and interest will be alike against any candidates introducing or involving bitterness or strife at Chicago, or having the weakness of old or new

ciple in philosophy that great movements go forward
 along the line of least resistance. Thus it is hardly
 toward Senator Allison, whose ability and fitness
 the Presidency are admitted, whose trained experience
 and record of twenty-five years in Congress give the
 position in public affairs of security and practical
 wisdom in public affairs. He alone entitles freedom
 from personal and factional antagonisms would give
 him every Republican vote at the polls. He alone
 demand a trained and qualified statesman at the head
 of American affairs just now to deal with a wily enemy.
 The people of protection and of all American interests
 want a man who will protect them safe and strong,
 and want a man who has the courage as well as the
 courage of actual statesmanship.

Mr. Allison is this sort of man. He has helped to

of the Republican party. He is part of its record. In the struggle for honest money he was the Western Senator who always stood firm for resumption and

creating the present tariff laws, and is the strongest man in the West to-day in defence of the principle of protection. His leadership has changed Iowa, a free-trade State twenty years ago, to the staunchest State in trade protection. He is the only man in Iowa who can do this. He may be said to stand as the bulwark of protection and its strongest, ablest, and most effective champion in the West to-day. His power and popularity as a great Senator who has helped to organize the development and upbuilding of the West are doing more to-day to hold that principle than all the Democrats who are now in or to carry it for free-trade than any other influence. The hope of the continuance of a protection majority in the Western States lies largely with Mr. Allison. Eastern protectionists, who know how strongly the free-traders covet the West, and how